



Together we will build a world-class city

City of Columbia Press Releases

May 1-31, 2015

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We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 1, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department at 803-545-3020

9th Annual Vietnam Veterans Survivors and Remembrance Day Celebration

Join the South Carolina Combat Veterans Group for the 9th Annual Vietnam Veterans Survivors and Remembrance Day Celebration on Friday, May 1 at 11 a.m. at the Vietnam Memorial in Memorial Park.

The celebration will feature a wreath laying ceremony, remarks from city, county and state officials, and guest speaker retired Maj. James B. Harris, USMC.

Prior to the start of the ceremony, a motorcade will depart the Dorn VA Medical Center located at 6439 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209 at 8:30 a.m. and will travel to Memorial Park.

WHAT: 9th Annual Vietnam Veterans Survivors and Remembrance Day Celebration

WHO: Veterans, Mayor Steve Benjamin, County and State leaders

WHERE: Memorial Park, 700 Hampton Street (Vietnam Memorial)

WHEN: Today, May 1, 2015 at 11 a.m.

A reception will be held following the ceremony in the auditorium at the Dorn VA Medical Center, 6439 Garners Ferry Road, Columbia, SC 29209

For more information, please contact Renee Joye at 404-450-5817 or reneejoye48@gmail.com; Dianne Butler at 803-705-9182 or didu8@yahoo.com.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 1, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Columbia Animal Services to Celebrate National Pet Month

The City's Columbia Animal Shelter will celebrate National Pet Month by offering adoption specials and hosting events throughout May.

Beginning with Cinco de Mayo, Columbia Animal Shelter will offer pets for \$5 on May 5. Through the rest of week, pet adoptions will cost as follows:

May 6- \$15

May 7- \$25

May 8- \$35

May 9- \$45

May 9: Adoptions will cost \$50 for the remainder of the month. All adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

May 16 - 17: Columbia Animal Shelter needs help filling the red truck with supplies for the shelter. Animal lovers are encouraged to drop off pet supplies at the corner of Heyward and Holly Street from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days.

May 23: Columbia Animal Shelter will be joining the Palmetto Conservation Association to raise awareness on pet adoptions and walking some of their shelter dogs on the Palmetto Trail near Fort Jackson from 9 a.m. to noon. Columbia Police Department's K-9 unit will also provide a demonstration immediately following the walk.

May 30 - 31: Columbia Animal Shelter will host its annual Adopt-A-Thon with Petsense. Cats and dogs will be available for adoption from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 30 and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 31.

For more information, contact the Columbia Animal Shelter at 803-776-PETS.

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FOR MAY 1 RELEASE

May 1, 2015

CONTACT: Jonathan Sherer at 255-8160 or jdsherer@columbiasc.net

The City Asks: What do you know about your H₂O?

The City of Columbia invites you to come learn more about your drinking water during our Happy Hour Tour of the water treatment plant. On May 7, 2015, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., you can enjoy a cool, refreshing glass of tap water on us! While you refresh, our staff will lead you through the plant so that you can know more about your H₂O. This event is free but you must register for the tour on [EventBrite](#).



Picture Caption: Visitors take a tour of the City's Columbia Canal Water Treatment Plant.

#

Please contact the City of Columbia Customer Care Center at 545-3300 or Jon Sherer, P.E. at 255-8160 if you have questions. (jdsherer@columbiasc.net). If you would like to learn more about the City of Columbia's water system please see our website at: www.columbiasc.net/drinking-water.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 1, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation to Host Kids Day Wet N' Wild

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a day of water fun at Kids Day Wet n' Wild on Saturday, May 2 at Finlay Park.

The event will feature water slides, water games, face painting, a petting zoo, pony rides, exhibitors, food vendors and more! Guests can also bring their super soakers and get ready for a battle in the water play area.

Admission is FREE. There are fees for face painting, food vendors, carnival games, the petting zoo and pony rides.

WHAT: Kids Day Wet N' Wild

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street

WHEN: Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 2-7 p.m.

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

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WHAT: Kids Day Wet N' Wild

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street

WHEN: Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 2-7 p.m.

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, May 1, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

Columbia Entry Selected as Finalist in National InnovateHER Competition

The Small Business Association (SBA) announced that Columbia's InnovateHER submission has been selected as a finalist for its national competition. The company, GaBBY Bows, will be presenting its pitch along 14 other national finalists during SBA's National Small Business Week event on May 8, 2015 in Washington D.C.

GaBBY Bows are a double-face, double-snap barrette engineered to prevent hair slippage and perfect for pigtails, braids and twists. It was invented by Rozalyn Goodwin and her eight-year-old daughter Gabby Goodwin to save families time, money and frustration. Gabby Goodwin will be joining the City for its Small Business Week Conference on May 5, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.

InnovateHER provides an opportunity for entrepreneurs to showcase innovative products and services that help impact and empower the lives of women and families. As a finalist, GaBBY Bows is eligible to compete for InnovateHER's top three awards and a total of \$30,000 in prize money.

For more information, contact the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

**please see attached for photo*

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 1, 2015

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities, and re-conductor work along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Distribution Line Tree Trimming:

Arsenal Hill Neighborhood Organization
 Elmwood Park Neighborhood Organization
 Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District
 Pinehurst Community Council
 Midland Terrace Neighborhood
 Druid Hills Neighborhood Association
 Community Improvement Cooperative Council
 Edgewood Neighborhood Floral Club
 Celia Saxon Neighborhood Association
 Eva P. Trezevant Neighborhood Organization
 Forest Hills North

Re-conductor Projects

Shandon
 Wales Garden
 Bradley Community Council
 Godbold Place Homeowners

Citizens with specific questions or concerns should contact Forestry and Beautification at 803-545-3860 or SCE&G at 1-800-251-7234 to meet and discuss in advance of the work being completed.

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored by the City's four Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89 percent improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.

###

Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 1, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Active Adults Olympic Games

Registration Ends Today

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring the Active Adults Olympic Games for adults age 50 and older.

Bring your friends and family, and show off your athletic skills during this five-day competition.

The Active Adults Olympic Games will be held Monday, May 18, 2015 through Friday, May 22, 2015. Competitions will be held in the evenings. Times and locations will vary. Olympic-style medals will be awarded.

Competitive events will feature a variety of activities including basketball, billiards, disc golf, swimming, horseshoes, track, tennis and more.

Schedule of Olympic Events

Monday May 18, 2015	Tuesday May 19, 2015	Wednesday May 20, 2015	Thursday May 21, 2015	Friday May 22, 2015
OWENS FIELD 1351 Jim Hamilton Boulevard Disc Golf 6:30pm Track & Field: Long Jump 6:30pm 40-yard Dash 7:00pm 100-yard Dash 7:30pm Softball Throw 7:45pm	JAMES E. CLYBURN GOLF CENTER 2091 Slighs Avenue Longest Drive 6:00pm Closet to the Pin (120 yards) 6:30pm Putting 7:00pm	GREENVIEW PARK 6700 David Street Ping Pong 6:30pm Billiards 7:00pm Tennis: Singles 6:00pm Doubles 7:00pm Mixed Doubles 7:30pm	MAXCY GREGG POOL 1655 Park Circle Horseshoes 6:00pm Bocce Ball 6:00pm Swimming: Freestyle 6:00pm Back Stroke 6:30pm Breast Stroke 7:00pm	GREENVIEW PARK 6700 David Street Basketball: Free Throw, 6:00pm 3 on 3 6:30pm Pickleball 6 p.m. End of Games Cookout 7:00pm

The fee to register is \$20 per participant which includes a souvenir bag, two wristbands for a cookout to be held at the end of the competition and a T-shirt. There is a \$5 fee for each additional wristband for the cookout.

Participants must register by May 1, 2015. Registration forms are available at the following locations:

- [City recreation centers](#)
- Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203
- Online at Parks and Recreation Department's "[Senior Programs Events](#)" page

For more information, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

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Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

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The event will feature water slides, water games, face painting, a petting zoo, pony rides, exhibitors, food vendors and more! Guests can also bring their super soakers and get ready for a battle in the water play area.

Admission is FREE. There are fees for face painting, food vendors, carnival games, the petting zoo and pony rides.

WHAT: Kids Day Wet N' Wild

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street

WHEN: Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 2-7 p.m.

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, May 4, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore at 803-545-3043

City Council Meeting Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct a Work Session at 1 p.m. at City Hall, 1737 Main Street and a District IV Evening Meeting at 6 p.m. at Woodland Park, 6500 Old Knight Parkway on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. The agendas are attached for your review.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, May 4, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Pet of the Week: Stan! (ID# A213942)

Stan is a four-month-old Boxador. He is intelligent and very good with kids. Stan is also neutered and microchipped.

Visit Stan and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo.*

We Are Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Monday 18, 2015	May	Tuesday May 19, 2015	Wednesday 20, 2015	May	Thursday 21, 2015	May	Friday 22, 2015	May
OWENS FIELD <i>1351 Jim Hamilton Boulevard</i>		JAMES E. CLYBURN GOLF CENTER <i>2091 Slighs Avenue</i>		GREENVIEW PARK <i>6700 David Street</i>		MAXCY GREGG POOL <i>1655 Park Circle</i>		GREENVIEW PARK <i>6700 David Street</i>
Disc Golf	6:30pm	Longest Drive	Ping Pong	6:30pm	Horseshoes	6:00pm	Basketball: Free Throw, 6:00pm	
		6:00pm	Billiards	7:00pm	Bocce Ball	6:00pm		
Track & Field:			Tennis:		Swimming:		Pickleball:	
Long Jump	6:30pm	Closet to the Pin (120 yards)	Singles	6:00pm	Freestyle	6:00pm	6:00pm	
		6:30pm	Doubles	7:00pm	Back Stroke	6:30pm	3 on 3 6:30pm	
40-yard Dash	7:00pm	Putting 7:00pm	Mixed Doubles		Breast Stroke	7:00pm	End of Games Cookout 7:00pm	
			7:30pm					
100-yard Dash	7:30pm							
Softball Throw	7:45pm							

The fee to register is \$20 per participant which includes a souvenir bag, two wristbands for a cookout to be held at the end of the competition and a T-shirt. There is a \$5 fee for each additional wristband for the cookout.

Participants must register by Friday, May 8, 2015. Registration forms are available at the following locations:

- [City recreation centers](#)
- Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203
- Online at Parks and Recreation Department's "[Senior Programs Events](#)" page

For more information, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

****Please see the attached flyer and registration form***



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 4, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

The City's National Small Business Week Kick-Off Press Conference

WHAT: The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities in conjunction with Columbia Chamber of Commerce and Richland County will kickoff National Small Business Week with a press conference.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia Chamber of Commerce CEO Carl Blackstone, Richland County Officials and U.S. Small Business Administration South Carolina District Director Elliott Cooper.

WHERE: Columbia Chamber, 930 Richland Street, Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Monday, May 4, 2015 at 2 p.m.

For more information, contact Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2015

CONTACT: Jonathan Sherer at 255-8160 or jdsherer@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia Asks "What do you know about H₂O?" During Drinking Water Week

City of Columbia and The American Water Works Association kicked off Drinking Water Week across North America today by asking the question "What do you know about H₂O, Columbia?"

Throughout the week, AWWA, City of Columbia, and water community partners will celebrate the value of water by learning about the role it plays in our daily lives and in the quality of life we enjoy because of it. Special attention will be given to the ways in which water consumers can get to know their H₂O during this special week. Please join City of Columbia for their "Happy Hour Tour" on 5/7/2015 and enjoy a cool, refreshing glass of tap water (register through [EventBrite](#))

"As 'One Columbia', we recognize the importance of safe drinking water for sustaining our city," said James 'Bud' Summers, the City's Water Works Superintendent. "We gladly join the AWWA to celebrate Drinking Water Week and are most proud to have served Columbia and many surrounding communities' potable water needs since 1835."

To commemorate the week, water utilities, environmental advocates, and other interested groups will celebrate drinking water through school events, public presentations, and community festivals. They will also provide their communities with vital information on how water consumers can get to know their H₂O.

About Drinking Water Week

For more than 35 years, AWWA and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week – a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives. Additional information about Drinking Water Week, including free materials for download and celebration ideas, is available on the [Drinking Water Week web page](#).

###

Please contact the City of Columbia Customer Care Center at 545-3300 or Jon Sherer, P.E. at 255-8160 if you have questions. (jdsherer@columbiasc.net). If you would like to learn more about the City of Columbia's water system please see our website at: www.columbiasc.net/drinking-water or join us for a tour on 5/7/2014 by registering on [EventBrite](#).



Picture Caption: The new raw water intake building for the City's Columbia Canal Water Treatment Plant



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 04, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Let's Move! Columbia Turns 5!

Let's Move! Columbia is having a birthday party and you're invited! Join the City of Columbia in celebrating five years as a Let's Move! city.

This year also marks the 5th anniversary of the national Let's Move! initiative. To celebrate this special occasion, the City is hosting the Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day on Saturday, May 16 at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center.

South Carolina has the 2nd highest childhood obesity rate in the country for ages 10-17 and ranks No. 10 in the country for adult obesity. Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day is the perfect event to celebrate our birthday, and provide a fun day of activities for youth and their families to learn more ways they can live a healthier life.

The **FREE** event will include flag football featuring the following professional and former collegiate football players:

- **Landon Cohen:** Seattle Seahawks defensive end
- **Preston Thorne:** Former USC Gamecock football captain, current Blythewood High School defensive coordinator and founder of Eat2Win camp series
- **Willis Ham:** Former USC Gamecock and SC State Bulldog football player, and owner of GO HAM Fitness
- **Steven Kennedy:** Former USC Gamecock football player and author

#GimmeFive Family Fitness Day will also include a variety of activities including:

- **Live Entertainment**
- **An Obstacle Course**
- **Relay Races**

- **Cooking Demonstrations**
- **An Activity Zone**
- **Health Fair and more!**

WHAT: Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day

WHERE: Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC 29204

WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Nonprofit health and wellness organizations interested in being an exhibitor can register for free.

For more information about Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day or to register as an exhibitor, please contact Wanda Austin at 803-315-4964 or weaustin@columbiasc.net.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 4, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

The City to Host Small Business Week Conference

The City's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) will host its annual Small Business Week Conference on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street. This year, the conference will focus on innovation.

The goal of the conference is to highlight the impact and successes of the City's outstanding entrepreneurs and small business owners. This year's keynote speaker is William D. Kirkland, executive director of the University of South Carolina's Office of Economic Engagement.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn helpful business tips, network with their peers and learn more about:

- National InnovateHER Finalist GaBBY Bows
- Are Trade Shows Right for You?
- Share your story, Don't Sell Your Story!
- 2fat2fly from OWN's Network
- What Happened? You're not the Person I Hired!
- Innovation through Collaboration

Tickets for the event are \$50. To purchase a ticket, click [here](#).

For more information, contact the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

The City to Host Small Business Week Conference

The City's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO) will host its annual Small Business Week Conference on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street. This year, the conference will focus on innovation.

The goal of the conference is to highlight the impact and successes of the City's outstanding entrepreneurs and small business owners. This year's keynote speaker is William D. Kirkland, executive director of the University of South Carolina's Office of Economic Engagement.

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- National InnovateHER Finalist GaBBY Bows
- Are Trade Shows Right for You?
- Share your story, Don't Sell Your Story!
- 2fat2fly from OWN's Network
- What Happened? You're not the Person I Hired!
- Innovation through Collaboration

For more information, contact the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

###

**please see attached for the conference agenda*



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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 05, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Registration Period Open for Men's Adult Basketball League

Registration for the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department's Summer Men's Adult Basketball league is now open through May 15.

The league is open to males ages 18 and older. The fee to register is \$300 per team.

Games will be played on Sunday and Monday nights beginning May 31, 2015.

To register, please visit the Parks and Recreation Department's Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit the department's ["Adult Sports" page online](#).

The registration form and payment can be mailed to Parks Administration. Make checks and money orders payable to the City of Columbia. Registrations will not be accepted without payment.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100.

###

**Please see the attached flyer*



We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 05, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Summer Youth Basketball League Registration Open

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for its Summer Youth Basketball League.

Children ages 8-18 can play in the summer league. The fee to participate is \$25 per participant.

The last day to register is Friday, May 29, 2015. The Summer Youth Basketball League season begins Monday, June 8, 2015.

Registration forms are available and can be submitted at any community recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit the Parks & Recreation's [Athletics page online](#).

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Columbia Animal Services to Celebrate National Pet Month

The City's Columbia Animal Shelter will celebrate National Pet Month by offering adoption specials and hosting events throughout May.

Beginning with Cinco de Mayo, Columbia Animal Shelter will offer pets for \$5 on May 5. Through the rest of week, pet adoptions will cost as follows:

May 6- \$15

May 7- \$25

May 8- \$35

May 9- \$45

May 9: Adoptions will cost \$50 for the remainder of the month. All adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

May 16 - 17: Columbia Animal Shelter needs help filling the red truck with supplies for the shelter. Animal lovers are encouraged to drop off pet supplies at the corner of Heyward and Holly Street from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days.

May 23: Columbia Animal Shelter will be joining the Palmetto Conservation Association to raise awareness on pet adoptions and walking some of their shelter dogs on the Palmetto Trail near Fort Jackson from 9 a.m. to noon. Columbia Police Department's K-9 unit will also provide a demonstration immediately following the walk.

May 30 - 31: Columbia Animal Shelter will host its annual Adopt-A-Thon with Petsense. Cats and dogs will be available for adoption from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 30 and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 31.

For more information, contact the Columbia Animal Shelter at 803-776-PETS.

**please see attached for flyers*

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2015

CONTACT: Jonathan Sherer at 255-8160 or jdsherer@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia Celebrates Drinking Water Week With Happy Hour Plant Tour

City of Columbia As Drinking Water Week continues, the City of Columbia joins the American Water Works Association and water professionals across North America with special events focused on getting to know drinking water and the local drinking water supply.

The City of Columbia will join in the festivities by providing a special Happy Hour Tour of the water treatment plant on Thursday, May 7th at 5:30 PM. Local residents can learn how water is treated, its importance in our daily lives, and enjoy a cool, refreshing glass of tap on the City. To register for the tour, visit [EventBrite](#) and search for Happy Hour Tour.

"The City of Columbia feels it is important to set aside a few days to celebrate our community's accomplishments in building and maintaining its drinking water infrastructure," said Jonathan Sherer, the City's Water Works Specialist. "As a community, we have provided billions of gallons of clean safe drinking water over the past 180 years to satisfy our community's thirst and provide economic opportunity. Please help us celebrate these accomplishments by drinking from the tap today!"

About Drinking Water Week

For more than 35 years, AWWA and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week – a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives. Additional information about Drinking Water Week, including free materials for download and celebration ideas, is available on the [Drinking Water Week web page](#).

#

Please contact the City of Columbia Customer Care Center at 545-3300 or Jon Sherer, P.E. at 255-8160 if you have questions. (jdsherer@columbiasc.net). If you would like to learn more about the City of Columbia's water system please see our website at: www.columbiasc.net/drinking-water or join us for a tour on 5/7/2014 by registering on [EventBrite](#).



Picture Caption: Jon Sherer, City Water Works Specialist, gives a tour of the Columbia Canal water treatment plant.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

The City's Office of Business Opportunities to Host Franchising Seminar

The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities, in conjunction with the International Franchise Association (IFA), will host a franchising seminar on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Earlewood Community Building, 1113 Parkside Drive. The one-day seminar is designed to teach participants more about franchising.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn the fundamental tools of franchising, what franchisors are looking for in a candidate, the legal aspects of franchising and how to obtain funding and technical assistance. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with franchises interested in expanding to Columbia, S.C.

The cost to register is \$25 and includes continental breakfast and session materials. To register, click [here](#).

###

**please see attached for flyer*



Press Release

We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2015

CONTACT: Jonathan Sherer at 255-8160 or jdsherer@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia Urges Consumers to Understand their Water "From Source to Tap" During Drinking Water Week

City of Columbia As Drinking Water Week continues, the City of Columbia joins the American Water Works Association and water professionals across the country in highlighting the importance of understanding their water supply from source to tap.

Every day, millions of people in North America turn on their faucets but give little thought to the water that flows out. How does water get from its initial source, through the treatment process and then out of the faucet? Also, who are the professionals that are responsible for treating and distributing drinking water? What federal organizations regulate and set the laws to protect our drinking water supply? Discovering the answers to these important questions is a valuable part in understanding our drinking water.

"Drinking Water Week provides an opportunity for us to pause a moment and reflect beyond our tap back to the origin of our water treatment process," says James 'Bud' Summers, City of Columbia Water Works Superintendent. "It also gives us a chance to recognize the hard-working men and women who quietly go about the business of ensuring City water users are served an abundant supply of safe, tasty drinking water."

The best way to find out more about drinking water is by attending our Happy Hour Tour tonight. Local residents can learn how water is treated, the people that make it possible, and enjoy a cool, refreshing glass of tap on the City. To register for the tour, visit [EventBrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) and do a search for Happy Hour Tour (pre-registration required). If you cannot make the tour, but want more information, visit www.columbiasc.net/drinking-water.

About Drinking Water Week

For more than 35 years, AWWA and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week – a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives. Additional information about Drinking Water Week, including free materials for download and celebration ideas, is available on the [Drinking Water Week web page](#).

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Please contact the City of Columbia Customer Care Center at 545-3300 or Jon Sherer, P.E. at 255-8160 if you have questions. (jdsherer@columbiasc.net). If you would like to learn more about the City of Columbia's water system please see our website at: www.columbiasc.net/drinking-water or join us for a tour on 5/7/2014 by registering on [EventBrite](#).



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 7, 2015

Contact: Jeff Rainwater at 803-545-3383



Community Development to Celebrate 40 Years of Service to the Midlands

The City of Columbia's Community Development Department and the Columbia Council of Neighborhoods (CCN) will host an Annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the Columbia Marriott, 1200 Main Street. Congressman James E. Clyburn will be the keynote speaker.

The Annual Awards Banquet will highlight Community Development's 40 years of service to the Midlands and recognize local neighborhood leaders. Community Development will also unveil its video "40 years-- Building Communities and Transforming Lives".

Since its inception, Community Development has focused on making Columbia a better place to live, work and play. The department has supported the economic development of Columbia by providing façade loans, creating development corporations and outlining five federally targeted areas to provide benefits. Additionally, Community Development has addressed quality of life issues through park development.

###

**please see attached for flyer*

Please be advised this event has been postponed. Once a new date and time have been selected, a new advisory will be sent out.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 8, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020

Postponement /Ribbon Cutting Harden/Read Street Project

WHAT: Press Conference/Ribbon Cutting for the completion of the following:

The North Harden Street streetscaping Phase II project, which included improvements to approximately 1,000 feet of Harden Street from Read Street northward to the railroad trestle. This included roadway improvements, sidewalk construction, landscaping, street lighting, and improvements to utilities, including water facilities, storm sewer and sanitary sewer.

The Read Street project, which included improvements to water and sewer lines, new asphalt paving and striping, sidewalk repair and asphalt stamping at intersections.

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Councilman Brian Newman, Columbia Housing Authority representatives and other community Leaders

WHERE: Columbia Housing Authority Parking Lot
1917 Harden Street

WHEN: Monday, May 11, 2015
11:30 a.m.

For more information, please contact Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020

The City of Columbia is Now Accepting Online Payments for Parking Citations

The City of Columbia Parking Services Department is working with T2 Systems and South Carolina Interactive to develop a real time payment system which offers those receiving citations to pay them online within minutes of receiving them.

Parking Services has installed new software and wireless citation writing devices to make payments easier for members of the public receiving citations.

Customers may go to www.columbiasc.net/parking for a link to the payment site or go directly to <https://columbiasc.t2hosted.com> to make payments. To pay a citation, the license tag of the vehicle and an unpaid citation number will be needed.

"This is a program we have been working on for some time," said City Parking Services Director John David Spade. "We spent a lot of time working on a solution which is highly secure and which allows someone to pay a citation online within minutes of receiving one."

When an enforcement monitor issues a citation, that data is transmitted wirelessly to T2 Systems, the cloud-based service provider used by the City. That citation may be paid at any time after it is written. Payments can be made online, by mail, or in person at 1136 Washington St. or 820 Washington St.

"The total price which will be charged to customers paying online includes funds used to develop, maintain, enhance and expand the electronic payment service they are being offered," Spade said.

Additional enhancements for parking customers are scheduled to roll out in the coming months. By the end of June, Spade expects the pay by cell service offered by Passport

Parking to be up and running. This will allow parkers to pay for metered parking spaces by phone or by using Passport's phone app.

"We will also be adding features to our online payment system," Spade said. "The first new feature will allow customers to log in to see their account history for the past three years." Currently, only unpaid citations will be listed.

For those who have questions about these parking programs, Spade suggests calling the Parking Services Customer Center at 545-4015.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 07, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Registration Extended for Active Adults Olympic Games

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department has extended the registration period for the Active Adults Olympic Games until **Friday, May 8, 2015**.

Adults age 50 and older can show off their athletic skills during this five-day competition.

The Active Adults Olympic Games will be held Monday, May 18, 2015 through Friday, May 22, 2015. Competitions will be held in the evenings. Times and locations will vary. Olympic-style medals will be awarded.

Competitive events will feature a variety of activities including basketball, billiards, disc golf, swimming, horseshoes, track, tennis and more.

Schedule of Olympic Events

Monday 18, 2015	May	Tuesday May 19, 2015	May	Wednesday 20, 2015	May	Thursday 21, 2015	May	Friday 22, 2015	May
OWENS FIELD 1351 Jim Hamilton Boulevard		JAMES E. CLYBURN GOLF CENTER 2091 Slighs Avenue		GREENVIEW PARK 6700 David Street		MAXCY GREGG POOL 1655 Park Circle		GREENVIEW PARK 6700 David Street	
Disc Golf	6:30pm	Longest Drive	6:00pm	Ping Pong	6:30pm	Horseshoes	6:00pm	Basketball: Free Throw,	6:00pm
Track & Field:		Closet to the Pin (120 yards)	6:30pm	Tennis:		Swimming:		Pickleball	6:00 p.m.
Long Jump	6:30pm	Putting	7:00pm	Singles	6:00pm	Freestyle	6:00pm	3 on 3	6:30pm
40-yard Dash	7:00pm			Doubles	7:00pm	Back Stroke	6:30pm	End of Games	
100-yard Dash	7:30pm			Mixed Doubles	7:30pm	Breast Stroke	7:00pm	Cookout	7:00pm
Softball Throw	7:45pm								

The fee to register is \$20 per participant which includes a souvenir bag, two wristbands for a cookout to be held at the end of the competition and a T-shirt. There is a \$5 fee for each additional wristband for the cookout.

Participants must register by Friday, May 8, 2015. Registration forms are available at the following locations:

- [City recreation centers](#)
- Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203
- Online at Parks and Recreation Department's "[Senior Programs Events](#)" page

For more information, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

****Please see the attached flyer and registration form***

We Are Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Monday 18, 2015	May	Tuesday May 19, 2015	Wednesday 20, 2015	May	Thursday 21, 2015	May	Friday 22, 2015	May
OWENS FIELD <i>1351 Jim Hamilton Boulevard</i>		JAMES E. CLYBURN GOLF CENTER <i>2091 Slighs Avenue</i>		GREENVIEW PARK <i>6700 David Street</i>		MAXCY GREGG POOL <i>1655 Park Circle</i>		GREENVIEW PARK <i>6700 David Street</i>
Disc Golf	6:30pm	Longest Drive	Ping Pong	6:30pm	Horseshoes	6:00pm	Basketball: Free Throw,	
		6:00pm	Billiards	7:00pm	Bocce Ball	6:00pm		6:00pm
Track & Field:			Tennis:		Swimming:		Pickleball:	
Long Jump	6:30pm	Closet to the Pin (120 yards)	Singles	6:00pm	Freestyle	6:00pm	6:00pm	
		6:30pm	Doubles	7:00pm	Back Stroke	6:30pm	3 on 3	6:30pm
40-yard Dash	7:00pm	Putting	Mixed Doubles		Breast Stroke	7:00pm	End of Games Cookout	
			7:30pm				7:00pm	
100-yard Dash	7:30pm							
Softball Throw	7:45pm							

The fee to register is \$20 per participant which includes a souvenir bag, two wristbands for a cookout to be held at the end of the competition and a T-shirt. There is a \$5 fee for each additional wristband for the cookout.

Participants must register by today, May 8, 2015. Registration forms are available at the following locations:

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- Online at Parks and Recreation Department's "[Senior Programs Events](#)" page

For more information, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

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****Please see the attached flyer and registration form***



Press Release

We Are Columbia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2015

CONTACT: Jonathan Sherer at 255-8160 or jdsherer@columbiasc.net

Conserve Columbia Highlights Water Saving Tips During Drinking Water Week

City of Columbia As Drinking Water Week continues, the City Of Columbia joins the American Water Works Association and water professionals across the country in establishing the importance of conserving water resources.

Because many regions of North America are currently facing drought conditions, it's imperative more than ever to be mindful of the value of water and avoid waste. One of the best ways to keep our water abundant is to conserve it, and AWWA encourages consumers to follow these conservation tips, which are also available on Drinktap.org:

- Don't over water your lawn. Only water every three to five days in the summer and 10 to 14 days in the winter.
- To prevent water loss from evaporation, don't water your lawn during the hottest part of the day or when it is windy.
- Only run the dishwasher and clothes washer when they are fully loaded.
- Defrost frozen food in the refrigerator or in the microwave instead of running water over it.
- When washing dishes by hand, use two basins - one for washing and one for rinsing rather than let the water run.
- Use a broom, rather than a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways.
- If you have a swimming pool, get a cover. You'll cut the loss of water by evaporation by 90 percent.
- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste about 2,000 gallons of water each year. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day.

"I tell my kids every night as they brush their teeth, 'Don't waste water,'" said Jon Sherer, the City of Columbia's Water Works Specialist. "Even in our water rich state, we must always think about how to save this precious natural resource. There are so many way easy ways to save water that will help your pocket book and extend the life of the City of Columbia's infrastructure at that same time. That benefits everyone."

AWWA's [Drip Calculator](#) is also available to help consumers estimate water waste from a leaky or dripping faucet. This online tool can calculate waste for both a dripping faucet and a fast running faucet.

About Drinking Water Week

For more than 35 years, AWWA and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week – a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives. Additional information about Drinking Water Week, including free materials for download and celebration ideas, is available on the [Drinking Water Week web page](#).

#

Please contact the City of Columbia Customer Care Center at 545-3300 or Jon Sherer, P.E. at 255-8160 if you have questions. (jdsherer@columbiasc.net). If you would like to learn more about the City of Columbia's water system please see our website at: www.columbiasc.net/drinking-water.



Picture Caption: Finding and fixing leaks can save water and your pocket book.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, May 8, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

Columbia Entry Selected as Finalist in National InnovateHER Competition

The Small Business Association (SBA) announced that Columbia's InnovateHER submission has been selected as a finalist for its national competition. The company, GaBBY Bows, will be presenting its pitch along 14 other national finalists during SBA's National Small Business Week event today in Washington D.C.

GaBBY Bows are a double-face, double-snap barrette engineered to prevent hair slippage and perfect for pigtails, braids and twists. It was invented by Rozalyn Goodwin and her eight-year-old daughter Gabby Goodwin to save families time, money and frustration.

InnovateHER provides an opportunity for entrepreneurs to showcase innovative products and services that help impact and empower the lives of women and families. As a finalist, GaBBY Bows is eligible to compete for InnovateHER's top three awards and a total of \$30,000 in prize money.

For more information, contact the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

**please see attached for photo*

###



For Immediate Release

May 8, 2015

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities, and re-conductor work along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Distribution Line Tree Trimming:

Arsenal Hill Neighborhood Organization
 Elmwood Park Neighborhood Organization
 Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District
 Pinehurst Community Council
 Midland Terrace Neighborhood
 Jones McDonald Community Club
 Druid Hills Neighborhood Association
 Community Improvement Cooperative Council
 Edgewood Neighborhood Floral Club
 Celia Saxon Neighborhood Association
 Eva P. Trezevant Neighborhood Organization
 Forest Hills North

Re-conductor Projects

Shandon
 Wales Garden
 Bradley Community Council
 Godbold Place Homeowners

Citizens with specific questions or concerns should contact Forestry and Beautification at 803-545-3860 or SCE&G at 1-800-251-7234 to meet and discuss in advance of the work being completed.

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.

###

Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, May 8, 2015

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting Agenda

The Board of Zoning Appeals will conduct a meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 10 a.m. The agenda is attached.

This agenda, past agendas and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found at <http://www.columbiasc.net/planning-boards-commissions/boza/agendas-minutes>.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, May 8, 2015

Contact: Planning Division at 803-545-3222

Design Development Review Commission Meeting Agenda

The Design Development Review Commission will conduct a meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 4 p.m. The agenda is attached.

This agenda, past agendas and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found at <http://www.columbiasc.net/planning-boards-commissions/ddrc/agendas-minutes>.

###



Press Release

We Are Columbia

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 11, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Let's Move! Columbia Turns 5!

Let's Move! Columbia is having a birthday party and you're invited! Join the City of Columbia in celebrating five years as a Let's Move! city.

This year also marks the 5th anniversary of the national Let's Move! initiative. To celebrate this special occasion, the City is hosting the Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day on Saturday, May 16 at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center.

South Carolina has the 2nd highest childhood obesity rate in the country for ages 10-17 and ranks No. 10 in the country for adult obesity. Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day is the perfect event to celebrate our birthday, and provide a fun day of activities for youth and their families to learn more ways they can live a healthier life.

The **FREE** event will include flag football featuring the following professional and former collegiate football players:

- **Landon Cohen:** Seattle Seahawks defensive end
- **Preston Thorne:** Former USC Gamecock football captain, current Blythewood High School defensive coordinator and founder of Eat2Win camp series
- **Willis Ham:** Former USC Gamecock and SC State Bulldog football player, and owner of GO HAM Fitness
- **Steven Kennedy:** Former USC Gamecock football player and author

#GimmeFive Family Fitness Day will also include a variety of activities including:

- **Live Entertainment**
- **An Obstacle Course**
- **Relay Races**
- **Cooking Demonstrations**
- **An Activity Zone**

- **Health Fair and more!**

WHAT: Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day

WHERE: Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC 29204

WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Nonprofit health and wellness organizations interested in being an exhibitor can register for free.

For more information about Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day or to register as an exhibitor, please contact Wanda Austin at 803-315-4964 or weaustin@columbiasc.net.

###

**Please see the attached flyer*



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020

Shaping Columbia Community Workshop

WHAT: The City of Columbia is rewriting its Zoning and Land Development Ordinance. The process began in 2014 when the City of Columbia and Richland County gathered extensive community input to shape long-term plans for growth. The rewrite will ensure the city's regulations are aligned with those plans, reflect contemporary zoning best practices, and are more user-friendly.

Come to learn about the effort and share your thoughts on how to improve the regulations that govern how and where we develop.

WHO: Columbia City Council Members, City Leaders, Planning and Development Services staff

WHERE: Seawell's Banquet Hall
1125 Rosewood Drive

WHEN: Tuesday, May 12, 2015
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

For more information, visit: weplantogether.org or contact Andrea Wolfe at Planning and Development Services at 803-545-3222.

###



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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 11, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

The City's Pet of the Week: Huey! (ID# A212634)

Huey is a two-year-old domestic short hair cat. He loves to cuddle and play with kids. Huey is also neutered and microchipped.

Visit Huey and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo.*



Registration Period Open for Men's Adult Basketball League

Registration for the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department's Summer Men's Adult Basketball league is open through **Friday, May 15.**

The league is open to males ages 18 and older. The fee to register is \$300 per team.

Games will be played on Sunday and Monday nights beginning May 31, 2015.

To register, please visit the Parks and Recreation Department's Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit the department's ["Adult Sports" page online.](#)

The registration form and payment can be mailed to Parks Administration. Make checks and money orders payable to the City of Columbia. Registrations will not be accepted without payment.

For more information, please call Parks & Recreation at 803-545-3100.

###

**Please see the attached flyer*



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children ages 8-18 can play in the summer league. The fee to participate is \$25 per participant.

The last day to register is Friday, May 29, 2015. The Summer Youth Basketball League season begins Monday, June 8, 2015.

Registration forms are available and can be submitted at any community recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit the Parks & Recreation's [Athletics page online](#).

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

Community Development to Host 40 Year Public Celebration at the Nick

The City of Columbia's Community Development Department will host a 40-year public celebration on Monday, May 18, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Nickelodeon Theater, 1607 Main Street. The celebration will include the unveiling of their video, "40 years-- Building Communities and Transforming Lives".

Since its inception, Community Development has focused on making Columbia a better place to live, work and play. The department has supported the economic development of Columbia by providing façade loans, creating development corporations and outlining five federally targeted areas to provide benefits. Additionally, Community Development has addressed quality of life issues through park development.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and seats are on a first come, first serve basis. Refreshments will also be available for purchase. For more information about the public celebration, contact Community Development at 803-545-3373.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

Planning Commission Work Session Agenda

The Planning Commission will conduct a work session for a presentation and discussion with the Clarion Consulting Team regarding the Shaping Columbia Project (Zoning Code and Land Development Regulations) on Wednesday, May 13 at 1 p.m. at Washington Square, Second Floor Conf. Room, 1136 Washington Street, Columbia, SC 29201. The agenda is attached.

This agenda, past agendas and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found at www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas.

###



We Are Columbia

Media Advisory

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 12, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020

Shaping Columbia Community Workshop

WHAT: The City of Columbia is rewriting its Zoning and Land Development Ordinance. The process began in 2014 when the City of Columbia and Richland County gathered extensive community input to shape long-term plans for growth. The rewrite will ensure the city's regulations are aligned with those plans, reflect contemporary zoning best practices, and are more user-friendly.

Come to learn about the effort and share your thoughts on how to improve the regulations that govern how and where we develop.

WHO: Columbia City Council Members, City Leaders, Planning and Development Services staff

WHERE: Seawell's Banquet Hall
1125 Rosewood Drive

WHEN: Tuesday, May 12, 2015
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

For more information, visit: weplantogether.org or contact Andrea Wolfe, Planning and Development Services at 803-545-3222.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

The City's Office of Business Opportunities to Host Franchising Seminar

The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities, in conjunction with the International Franchise Association (IFA), will host a franchising seminar on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Earlewood Community Building, 1113 Parkside Drive. The one-day seminar is designed to teach participants more about franchising.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn the fundamental tools of franchising, what franchisors are looking for in a candidate, the legal aspects of franchising and how to obtain funding and technical assistance. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with franchises interested in expanding to Columbia, S.C.

The cost to register is \$25 and includes continental breakfast and session materials. To register, click [here](#).

###

**please see attached for flyer*



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Summer Movies Series Begins June 5th

The City of Columbia's Summer Movies Series returns to Riverfront Park beginning Friday, June 5, 2015.

Movies will be held on Friday nights during June and July.

The following movies are free and open to the public:

- June 5: SpongeBob: Out of Water
- June 12: Penguins of Madagascar
- June 19: How to Train Your Dragon 2
- June 26: Mr. Peabody & Sherman
- July 3: Home
- July 10: The Book of Life
- July 17: Rio 2
- July 24: Ferngully: The Last Rainforest
- July 31: The Croods

There will be face painting, games and more fun prior to the start of the film at 7 p.m. Face painting will be available for a nominal fee.

Attendees can bring blankets, lawn chairs and coolers. No glass containers and alcoholic beverages allowed.

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



We Are Columbia

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Active Adults Olympic Games Cancelled

The Active Adults Olympic Games scheduled for May 18-22 has been cancelled. The five-day competition for adults age 50 and older will be scheduled for a later date.

###



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or email smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Summer Camps Guide

Registrations for the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department's summer camps are underway. Various summer camps will be held beginning Monday, June 1 and ending on Friday, August 14.

Day Camps

Camp programs focus on education through recreation, team building and leadership, creativity and self-expression, physical fitness and decision making. Camps are open to both city residents and non-city residents. The cost is \$55 per week. Additional fees may apply for field trips.

Camps are held from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. for children ages 6-12 (as of July 1) at the following parks:

- **Emily Douglas Park**- 2500 Wheat St., 803-733-8531
- **Greenview Park**- 6700 David St., 803-754-5223
- **Hampton Park**- 117 Brandon Ave., 803-776-9082
- **Heathwood Park**- 800 Abelia Rd., 803-733-8446
- **Hyatt Park**- 950 Jackson Ave., 803-733-8445
- **Lorick Park**- 1600 Lorick Ave., 803-691-9339
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Park**- 2300 Greene St., 803-733-8452
- **Melrose Park**- 1500 Fairview Rd., 803-733-8493
- **Pinehurst Park**- 2300 Pinehurst Rd., 803-733-8449
- **St. Anna's Park**- 1315 Liberty Hill Rd., 803-733-8450
- **Sims Park**- 3500 Duncan St., 803-733-8451
- **South Edisto (Edisto Discovery Center) Park**, 1914 Wiley Street, 803-255-8103
- **Woodland Park**- 6500 Olde Knight Highway, 803-776-1096

Teen Camp

The Parks and Recreation Department also offers a Teen Camp for children in grades 6-10 at the KMB Booker Washington Heights Community Center, located at 2611 Grant Ave. The camp runs from June 1 to August 14, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. The cost is \$55 per week. For more information, please call 803-255-8161.

Sports Camp

Children in grades K-6 can participate in a summer Sports Camp held at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, 2300 Greene Street. The camp is held from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. The cost of the camp is \$55 per week.

Art Camp

Let your child explore their creative side through painting, drawing, pottery and more at the Art Center's summer Art Camp. The camp will be held from June 15 through July 24 in two sessions for ages 5-9 and 10-14. Sessions will be held at the Art Center, located at 1928 Calhoun St. The camp costs \$85 per session. Camp is held Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Registration is limited to 10 participants per session.

- **Session 1**-June 15-19 (ages 5-9) (registration deadline June 2)
- **Session 2**-June 22-27 (ages 10-14) (registration deadline June 9)
- **Session 3**-July 13-17 (ages 5-9) (deadline June 30)
- **Session 4**-July 20-24 (ages 10-14) (deadline July 7)

Campers ages 5-9 can participate in a Mixed Media session. Children ages 10-14 can participate in Pottery Explorations.

To register, [click to download the Summer Art Camp brochure](#). For more information, please call the Art Center at 803-545-3093.

The registration for the department's Day Camps, Teen Camp and Sports Camp is available online on the department's "[Summer Camp](#)" page. Forms are also available at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office located inside Earlewood Park, 1111 Parkside Drive, and at the parks listed above.

For more information about the Parks and Recreation Department's summer programs, please call 803-545-3100.

###

**Please see the attached for the Summer Art Camp and Summer Camps brochures*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 15, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Columbia Animal Services Celebrates National Pet Month

The City's Columbia Animal Shelter is celebrating National Pet Month by offering adoption specials and hosting events throughout May.

Through May 31: Adoptions will cost \$50. All adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

May 16 - 17: Columbia Animal Shelter needs help filling the red truck with supplies for the shelter. Animal lovers are encouraged to drop off pet supplies at the corner of Heyward and Holly Street from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days.

May 23: Columbia Animal Shelter will be joining the Palmetto Conservation Association to raise awareness on pet adoptions and walking some of their shelter dogs on the Palmetto Trail near Fort Jackson from 9 a.m. to noon. Columbia Police Department's K-9 unit will also provide a demonstration immediately following the walk.

May 30 - 31: Columbia Animal Shelter will host its annual Adopt-A-Thon with Petsense. Cats and dogs will be available for adoption from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 30 and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 31.

For more information, contact the Columbia Animal Shelter at 803-776-PETS.

**please see attached for flyers*

###



Press Release

We Are Columbia

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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 15, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Let's Move! Columbia Turns 5!

Let's Move! Columbia is having a birthday party and you're invited! Join the City of Columbia in celebrating five years as a Let's Move! city.

This year also marks the 5th anniversary of the national Let's Move! initiative. To celebrate this special occasion, the City is hosting the Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day on Saturday, May 16 at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center.

South Carolina has the 2nd highest childhood obesity rate in the country for ages 10-17 and ranks No. 10 in the country for adult obesity. Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day is the perfect event to celebrate our birthday, and provide a fun day of activities for youth and their families to learn more ways they can live a healthier life.

The **FREE** event will include flag football featuring the following professional and former collegiate athletes:

- **Landon Cohen:** Seattle Seahawks defensive end
- **Preston Thorne:** Former USC Gamecock football captain, current Blythewood High School defensive coordinator and founder of Eat2Win camp series
- **Willis Ham:** Former USC Gamecock and SC State Bulldog football player, and owner of GO HAM Fitness
- **Steven Kennedy:** Former USC Gamecock football player and author
- **Chryssandra Hires:** Two-time U.S. Olympic Handball player

#GimmeFive Family Fitness Day will also include a variety of activities including:

- **Live Entertainment**
- **An Obstacle Course**
- **Relay Races**

- **Cooking Demonstrations**
- **An Activity Zone**
- **Health Fair and more!**

WHAT: Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day

WHERE: Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC 29204

WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information about Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day, please contact Wanda Austin at 803-315-4964 or weaustin@columbiasc.net.

###

**Please see the attached flyer*



For Immediate Release

May 15, 2015

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities, and re-conductor work along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Distribution Line Tree Trimming:

Arsenal Hill Neighborhood Organization
 Elmwood Park Neighborhood Organization
 Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District
 Pinehurst Community Council
 Midland Terrace Neighborhood
 Jones McDonald Community Club
 Druid Hills Neighborhood Association
 Community Improvement Cooperative Council
 Edgewood Neighborhood Floral Club
 Celia Saxon Neighborhood Association
 Eva P. Trezevant Neighborhood Organization
 Forest Hills North

Re-conductor Projects

Shandon
 Wales Garden
 Bradley Community Council
 Godbold Place Homeowners

Citizens with specific questions or concerns should contact Forestry and Beautification at 803-545-3860 or SCE&G at 1-800-251-7234 to meet and discuss in advance of the work being completed.

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.

###

Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)



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pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

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Let's Move! Columbia is having a birthday party and you're invited! Join the City of Columbia in celebrating five years as a Let's Move! city.

This year also marks the 5th anniversary of the national Let's Move! initiative. To celebrate this special occasion, the City is hosting the Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day on **today**, May 16 at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center.

South Carolina has the 2nd highest childhood obesity rate in the country for ages 10-17 and ranks No. 10 in the country for adult obesity. Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day is the perfect event to celebrate our birthday, and provide a fun day of activities for youth and their families to learn more ways they can live a healthier life.

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- **Health Fair and more!**

WHAT: Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day

WHERE: Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC
29204

WHEN: Today, May 16, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, May 18, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Summer Youth Basketball League Registration Open

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registrations for its Summer Youth Basketball League.

Children ages 8-18 can play in the summer league. The fee to participate is \$25 per participant.

The last day to register is Friday, May 29, 2015. The Summer Youth Basketball League season begins Monday, June 8, 2015.

Registration forms are available and can be submitted at any community recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit the Parks & Recreation's [Athletics page online](#).

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, May 18, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore at 803-545-3043

City Council Meeting Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct a work session at 1 p.m. and a council meeting at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 1737 Main Street on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. The agendas are attached for your review.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 25, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media @ 545-3020

City Offices to Close in Observance of Memorial Day

City of Columbia offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2015 in observance of Memorial Day.

All garbage and recycle routes will remain on schedule.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, May 18, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

Community Development to Celebrate 40 Years of Service at the Nick

The City of Columbia's Community Development Department will host a 40-year public celebration on Monday, May 18, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Nickelodeon Theater, 1607 Main Street. The celebration will include the unveiling of their video, "40 years-- Building Communities and Transforming Lives".

Since its inception, Community Development has focused on making Columbia a better place to live, work and play. The department has supported the economic development of Columbia by providing façade loans, creating development corporations and outlining five federally targeted areas to provide benefits. Additionally, Community Development has addressed quality of life issues through park development.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and seats are on a first come, first serve basis. Refreshments will also be available for purchase. For more information about the public celebration, contact Community Development at 803-545-3373.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, May 18, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Pet of the Week: Buster! (ID# A211238)

Looking for a cute addition to your family? Buster may be the dog for you! Buster is an energetic eight-month-old Treeing Tennessee Brindle. He's a perfect family pet and also plays well with other dogs. Buster is also neutered and microchipped.

Visit Buster and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, May 18, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore at 803-545-3043

Updated City Council Meeting Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct a work session at 1 p.m. and a council meeting/Budget Public Hearing/Zoning Public Hearing at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 1737 Main Street on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. The updated agendas are attached for your review.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, May 19, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

The City to Host Opportunities in Franchising Seminar Tomorrow

The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities, in conjunction with the International Franchise Association (IFA), will host a franchising seminar on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Earlewood Community Building, 1113 Parkside Drive.

The one-day seminar is designed to teach participants how to open, sustain and be successful in a franchise. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with franchises interested in expanding to Columbia, S.C. Recent college graduates, small business owners and entrepreneurs are invited to attend.

The cost to register is \$25 and includes continental breakfast and session materials. The first 25 participants that arrive will receive a surprise. To register, click [here](#).

###

**please see flyer attached*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020

Budget Public Hearing and Open House Tonight

WHAT: A Budget Public Hearing and Open House will be held this evening and several City of Columbia departments will have displays and information available regarding services and operations. A Budget in Brief document will also be made available to the public. The document can be found on the City's website at (<http://www.columbiasc.net/budget-office>).

"We welcome our citizens to join us for the public hearing and also visit the various information booths to gain valuable information about our city," City Manager Teresa Wilson commented.

WHO: City of Columbia management, City staff, community leaders, and citizens.

WHERE: City Hall
1737 Main Street

WHEN: Tuesday, May 19, 2015
6 p.m.

###

****See Budget in Brief document attached.***



Photo Caption: Community Development Display (The Gallery at City Hall).



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 19, 2015

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803-413-5052

City Council approves CPD Community Advisory Board

Columbia, SC – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin and City Council took another important step in what has become a series of bold public safety reforms designed to promote transparency and accountability when Council voted unanimously at their Work Session earlier today to establish the Community Police Advisory Board.

Made up of residents from across the city and representing Columbia's diverse demographic make-up, this 10-member board will be appointed by City Council in order to ensure community engagement and input in a broad spectrum of law enforcement operations and policies.

"From increasing public safety funding to leveraging new technologies, we've invested a lot over the past several years to ensure our citizens have a world-class police force," said Mayor Benjamin. "But all the new tools, training and technology in the world is no substitute for community trust and that's why this is so important.

"This has been a true citywide effort and I couldn't be more proud."

The latest in a series of law enforcement reforms, today's action comes after the landmark release of the Columbia Police Department's 2014 Internal Affairs Report last week and the launch of Mayor Benjamin's Justice for All initiative earlier this year.

For information, contact Michael Wukela at mcwukela@columbiasc.net or 803-413-5052.

###

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Maxcy Gregg Pool to Open Memorial Day Weekend

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department announced that Maxcy Gregg swimming pool will open for the summer on Saturday, May 23 at 10 a.m. The pool will remain open until Monday, September 7, 2015. Maxcy Gregg Pool is located at 1655 Park Circle.

The pool will operate at the following times during Memorial Day weekend:

- Saturday, May 23, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Sunday, May 24, from 2 to 6 p.m.
- Monday, May 25, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Swim lessons are offered during the months of June and July for \$35 per session.

Fees

Per visit: \$3 (ages 12 and under), \$4 (ages 13 and over)

Season tickets: \$80 (ages 12 and under), \$120 (ages 13 and over)

Group passes: \$75 (child), \$100 (adults)

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 20, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media @ 545-3020

Advertisement of Vacancies on the Citizen's Advisory Council

The City of Columbia is accepting applications to fill seven (7) vacancies on the Citizen's Advisory Council.

This council will meet quarterly to review police actions and determinations of complaints received by the police department.

The term of office is one (1) year with the possibility of one (1) reappointment.

All applicants must reside within Columbia city limits.

Deadline – Applications are due no later than June 16, 2015, 5 p.m.

For applications and more information contact Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to cflucius@columbiasc.net. You can also visit our website at <https://columbiasc.gov/boards-commissions> to download an application.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Summer Movies Series Begins June 5th

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The following movies are free and open to the public:

- June 5: SpongeBob: Out of Water
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There will be face painting, games and more fun prior to the start of the film at 7 p.m. Face painting will be available for a nominal fee.

Attendees can bring blankets, lawn chairs and coolers. No glass containers and alcoholic beverages allowed.

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Free Summer Concert Series Returns to Finlay Park

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department's free Summer Concert Series will kick off on Saturday, June 6 in Finlay Park located at 930 Laurel Street.

The Summer Concert Series will be held from 8 to 10 p.m. on the following dates:

- June 6: Dante Lewis featuring Kevin Whalum
- June 20: The Palmetto Latin Orchestra
- June 27: The 246th Army Band (South Carolina Army National Guard)
- July 4: The Original Tams (Capital City Beach Party)
- July 18: Glenn Jones
- August 1: LTD
- August 15: Midnight Star

All concerts are free and open to the public.

Attendees are welcome to bring blankets and lawn chairs. No pets allowed. Vendors will be available.

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, May 22, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020

City selected as Finalist for NUSA Neighborhood Program Award

The City's Community Development Department was selected as a finalist for the 2015 Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Best Neighborhood Program Award for its Access Columbia Financial Literacy Conference.

The purpose of the conference was to provide attendees with financial knowledge in a fun environment. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in sessions including how to improve their credit, creating cash on a budget and the importance of investing. Community Development will present its program at the 40th Annual Neighborhoods, USA Conference in Houston, TX on Friday, May 22, 2015.

Neighborhoods, USA is a national nonprofit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. Created in 1975 to share information and experiences used to build stronger communities, NUSA continues to encourage networking and information-sharing to facilitate the development of partnerships among neighborhood organizations, government and the private sector for the ultimate goal of strengthening every neighborhood.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 22, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Columbia Animal Services Celebrates National Pet Month

The City's Columbia Animal Shelter is celebrating National Pet Month by offering adoption specials and hosting events throughout May.

Through May 31: Adoptions will cost \$50. All adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

May 23: Columbia Animal Shelter will be joining the Palmetto Conservation Association to raise awareness on pet adoptions and walking some of their shelter dogs on the Palmetto Trail near Fort Jackson from 9 a.m. to noon. Columbia Police Department's K-9 unit will also provide a demonstration immediately following the walk.

May 30 - 31: Columbia Animal Shelter will host its annual Adopt-A-Thon with Petsense. Cats and dogs will be available for adoption from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 30 and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 31.

For more information, contact the Columbia Animal Shelter at 803-776-PETS.

**please see attached for flyers*

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 22, 2015

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 803-545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities, and re-conductor work along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Distribution Line Tree Trimming:

Arsenal Hill Neighborhood Organization
 Elmwood Park Neighborhood Organization
 Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District
 Pinehurst Community Council
 Midland Terrace Neighborhood
 Jones McDonald Community Club
 Druid Hills Neighborhood Association
 Community Improvement Cooperative Council
 Edgewood Neighborhood Floral Club
 Celia Saxon Neighborhood Association
 Eva P. Trezevant Neighborhood Organization
 Forest Hills North
 Rochelle Heights/Victory Gardens
 Bradley Community Council
 Godbold Place Homeowners

Re-conductor Projects:

Shandon
 Wales Garden
 Bradley Community Council
 Godbold Place Homeowners

Citizens with specific questions or concerns should contact Forestry and Beautification at 803-545-3860 or SCE&G at 1-800-251-7234 to meet and discuss in advance of the work being completed.

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored by the City's four Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89 percent improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

SCE&G's re-conductor work includes pole replacements and new wire in select locations. The goal of re-conductor work is to improve reliability.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.

###

Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 22, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020

City Offices to Close in Observance of Memorial Day

City of Columbia offices will be closed on Monday, May 25, 2015 in observance of Memorial Day. All garbage and recycle routes will remain on schedule.

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department
(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719
pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

May 22, 2015

Contact: Erika D. Moore at 803-545-3043

City Council Committee Meetings

The following Columbia City Council Committees are scheduled to meet on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at City Hall in the 3rd floor conference room. The agendas are attached for your reference.

- Administrative Policy Committee at 8:30 a.m.
- Arts & Historic Preservation Committee at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at 803-545-3043.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 22, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

**Walking Trail at Riverfront Park Will be Closed
for Transmission Line Construction**

A section of a Riverfront Park walking trail located just below the Broad River Road Bridge will be closed beginning 7 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 due to construction of a new electrical transmission line.

In order to ensure the safety of the public, the walking trail will be closed from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. from May 26 through June 5.

Riverfront Park will remain open.

For more information, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, May 23, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Maxcy Gregg Pool to Open Memorial Day Weekend

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department announced that Maxcy Gregg swimming pool will open for the summer **today**, May 23 at 10 a.m. The pool will remain open until Monday, September 7, 2015. Maxcy Gregg Pool is located at 1655 Park Circle.

The pool will operate at the following times during Memorial Day weekend:

- Saturday, May 23, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Sunday, May 24, from 2 to 6 p.m.
- Monday, May 25, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
-

Swim lessons are offered during the months of June and July for \$35 per session.

Fees

Per visit: \$3 (ages 12 and under), \$4 (ages 13 and over)

Season tickets: \$80 (ages 12 and under), \$120 (ages 13 and over)

Group passes: \$75 (child), \$100 (adults)

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373

Loan Committee Meeting Agenda

The Loan Committee will conduct a meeting today at 9 a.m. at 1225 Lady Street. The agenda is attached for your review.

###



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Maxcy Gregg Pool Summer Hours

Maxcy Gregg swimming pool is open for the summer and will remain open until Monday, September 7, 2015. Maxcy Gregg Pool is located at 1655 Park Circle.

The pool will be open from 1 to 6 p.m. from Tuesday, May 26 through Thursday, May 28.

Regular hours for recreational swimming, which begin on Saturday, May 30, are as follows:

- Monday through Thursday from 1 to 7 p.m.
- Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Sundays from 2 to 6 p.m.

The pool will be closed on Fridays for maintenance.

Swim lessons are offered during the months of June and July.

Fees

Per visit: \$3 (ages 12 and under), \$4 (ages 13 and over)

Season tickets: \$80 (ages 12 and under), \$120 (ages 13 and over)

Group passes: \$75 (child), \$100 (adults)

Swim Lessons: \$35 per session

For more information, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Summer Youth Basketball League Registration Open

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is accepting registrations for its Summer Youth Basketball League.

Children ages 8-18 can play in the summer league. The fee to participate is \$25 per participant.

The last day to register is Friday, May 29, 2015. The Summer Youth Basketball League season begins Monday, June 8, 2015.

Registration forms are available and can be submitted at any community recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

To download a registration form, visit the Parks & Recreation's [Athletics page online](#).

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 26, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

The City's Pet of the Week: Geoffery! (ID# A213486)

Geoffery is a 10-year-old domestic short haired cat. He is very mature and requires very little maintenance. Geoffery is also neutered and microchipped.

Visit Geoffery and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, May 28, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Columbia Tennis Center Offers Summer Camp

The Columbia Tennis Center located at 1635 Whaley Street, is hosting a summer Tennis Camp for children ages 7-14. The camp will focus on stroke production and techniques, drills, match competition and more.

The camp will be held on the following dates from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.:

- June 8-12
- June 22-26
- July 6-10
- July 20-24

The cost of the camp is \$55 per week. Make checks payable to the Columbia Tennis Center.

Applications are available at the Columbia Tennis Center. Registrations will be taken until the first day of camp.

For more information, please call the tennis center at 803-733-8440 or email Jnmuse@columbiasc.net.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, May 28, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

The First Tee of Columbia Summer Golf Sessions for Children

The First Tee of Columbia at the James E. Clyburn Golf Center will hold the Summer Golf Session for children ages 5-17 from June 10-August 15, 2015. The golf center is located at 2091 Slighs Avenue.

Coaches will introduce participants to the game of golf through The First Tee curriculum. Coaches will teach participants golf skills, the rules of the game and etiquette while reinforcing The Nine Core Values such as Sportsmanship, Honesty and Responsibility.

Registration information

WHAT: Peewees

WHEN: Thursdays from 5:15-6:15 p.m.

AGES: 5-6

FEE: \$20 per child

WHAT: Player and Par

WHEN: Wednesdays from 5:15-6:45 p.m. or Saturdays from 8:30-10 a.m.

AGES: 7-17

FEE: \$50 per child

WHAT: Player-Teen

WHEN: Thursdays from 5:15-7:15 p.m.

AGES: 13 and up with prior golf experience

FEE: \$50 per child

The maximum fee for families with two or more children participating is \$100.

The clinic is open to all skill levels. No equipment is needed. Financial scholarships are available for those who qualify.

The deadline to register is Friday, June 5, 2015. Registration is accepted online at www.TheFirstTeeColumbia.org or in person at the James E. Clyburn Golf Center.

For more information, please contact the James E. Clyburn Golf Center at 803-255-8920 or visit www.TheFirstTeeColumbia.org.

#

****Please see the attached flyer***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, May 29, 2015

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

Planning Commission Agenda

The Planning Commission will conduct a meeting on Monday, June 1, 2015 at 5:15 p.m. The agenda is attached.

This agenda, past agendas and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found at www.columbiasc.gov/planning-boards-commissions/pc/agendas.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 29, 2015

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 803-545-3860

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 Forest Hills North
 Rochelle Heights/Victory Gardens
 Bradley Community Council
 Godbold Place Homeowners

Re-conductor Projects:

Shandon
 Wales Garden
 Bradley Community Council
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Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 29, 2015

Contact: Michael Wukela (803) 413-5052

Mayor Benjamin elected AAMA President

WASHINGTON, DC – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin was elected President of the African American Mayor's Association (AAMA) today at the organization's 2015 Annual Conference in Washington DC replacing outgoing AAMA President Mayor William Bell, Sr. of Birmingham, Alabama.

"It's a true honor to be chosen to lead an organization like this dedicated to bringing visionaries like Mayor Bell together from all across our nation united in the spirit of collaboration, leadership and service," said Mayor Benjamin. "Over the next year we intend to be a leading voice on some of the most important issues facing our communities from job creation and growing wages for working families to supporting the President's My Brother's Keeper Initiative, addressing the effective use of technology in our lives and implementing meaningful law enforcement reforms to ensure justice for all."

"We're doing great things in Columbia and we welcome this opportunity to share our efforts with cities across America."

Launched on May 1, 2014, the AAMA is the only organization exclusively representing African-American mayors in the United States and works to empower local leaders by providing mayors with leadership and management tools and creating a forum for member mayors to share best practices related to municipal management.

In addition to serving as the AAMA's new President, Mayor Benjamin serves as a Trustee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and as Chair of Municipal Bonds for America.

Visit www.ourmayors.org for more information about the African American Mayor's Association.

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